# LITERATURE AND LITERARY TOPICS DISCUSSED BY EMINENT CRITICS.

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Assisted by a Staff of Prominent Literary Men.

### **FEATURES** FOR TO-DAY.

EDITORIAL-"The Book of the Season." POLITICAL AND SCIENCE-Asia and

PHILOSOPHY—Dictionary of Philoso-phy and Psychology.

BIOGRAPHY-Who's Who in America. TRAVEL-Alaska.

THEOLOGY-The Modern Mission Cen

POETRY-The Gage of Youth. FICTION-She Stands Alone. The Cavaliers. Marna's Mutiny The Striking Hours. My Strangest Case. Warwick of the Knobs.

JUVENILE-Kids of Many Colors.

#### "The Book of the Seoson."

How often do we not see, either in the prophetical notice sent out by the pubdesires to deal out unstitted praise, that such or such a work is "The book of the desires to deal out unstinted praise, that such or such a work is "The book of the season." It is not, apparently, in the least detrimental to the use of this title that it is applied to about one-fourth of the novels which are issued during any given publisher or reviewer because of much gives a comparison between the effects of Islam and Christianity in India, and he so cannot be overused. Hence, its catholicity of application.

But there is another, and a more evident use of the title retrospective, or at least, current. This is when some latelyissued work has won such hold upon the affection of the public that in sales and talk "its name leads all the rest." Examples not a few will occur to any reader who watches the movements of the lite- to a discussion of the Asiatic character rary market, and we need not instancewhich, would, indeed, in view of what we

"the book of the season," taking the title as legitimately won in the last-mentioned manner, know a longer life than for the season of which it was the hero? Rarely, indeed, do those works of which the sales, during the first year of their existence, run into the hundreds of thousands, retain any real life for so much as a centerable law that the work of fiction which creates the greatest furore will be among the shortest-lived of its kind. It appears, dazzles and glows as a meteer, and as a meteor it falls. And it falls "never to rise again's it falls to the darkness of utter obscurity. Its author may maintain popularity for a time; but the book itself

the reason, if this may be done. There is an old saying that "one nail drives out another." and doubtless this is of application here: but of itself it will hardly serve to account for the enhanceral character of popularity displayed by late works of fiction. It is true that, thanks to judicious advertising "great novels" are forced upon the public with such ber precludes favorable memory of one of their host; but this is not sufficient cause for the total neglect that is subsequently meted out. For it must be noted that many novels which are not "books of the season," remain with us and find steadilygrowing popularity. Neither can the phenomenon which we are discussing be attributed to sudden and violent changes of taste in the public; as a rule, such change, when it occurs at all, is a gradual evolu-

Perhaps the true reason is to be found in the fact that "the book of the season" almost invariably has extraneous or advertitious aid to popularity. It is written by a young girl, or it deals with some question of the time, or-most potent reason of all-it deals with some phase of life which is novel in fiction and thus areases a temperary curiosity. It wins ephemeral success, not on its intrinsic

tion whose steps are hardly to be marked

good sign of public sanity; but so it 's. and so it will continue to be until the public learns to distinguish between inherent merit and meretricious glamor-

ASIA AND EUROPE. By Meredith Townsend, G. P. Puntam's sons, New York. One of the most important contributions to political literature has appeared from the press of G. P. Putnam's Sons, Its title is "Aria and Europe," and its author Meredith Townsend, The value of this work at the present time lies not so much in its deductions regarding the Asiatic and the European, but in the conclusions reached by the author in his study of the radical peculiarities of the dwellers in Asia, and the effect that such peculiarities will have upon American influence in the Eastern Continent. This statement will appear somewhat extraordinary when we consider that nearly all that our author says about America is to be found in his preface. The thoughts uttered by Mr. importance, and because of his knowledge usually to dogmatic statements unsupported by definite proofs. The scope its essays contains much that is new to most readers, and, for that matter, to many students. Mr. Townsend discusses says: "Mohammedan proselytism succeeds in India because it leaves its converts Asiaties still; Christian proselytism fails in India because it strives to make its converts English middle-class men. That is the truth in a nutshell, whether we choose to accept it or not." In the chapter entitled "Will England Retain India?" the conclusions of the author will provoke loud dissent from those who believe in the permanent English supremacy in that country. Mr. Townsend gives much space and Asiatic society. We have not seen such a series of illuminating chapters upon this subject in any other work. appears to us that no student of politics or history can afford to allow this book to go unread by him.

DICTIONARY OF PHI SOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY. Edited by James Mark Baldwin: The Macm.llan Com-

pany, New York.

After long preparation Dr. Baldwin's "Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology" is issuing from the press. The work will be welcomed not only by the students of the sciences of which it treats, but by the general reader seeking specific information on points in them. In the pany, New York. information on points in them. In the preparation of his work, which is to be issued in three volumes, the first of which is before us, Professor Baldwin has been assisted by a Board of Editors which contained the most distinguished specialists in phllosophy, logic, ethics, psychology, philology, physical science and mathematics, mental pathology and anthropology, biology and their allied studies. The first volume (that being reviewed) con-tains the division of the work beginning with A and ending with Laws. An examination of the pages shows that, althought the greatest erudition is constantly in evidence, the work is made so technical as to be unusable by the ordinary student. The articles are clear and well written, and will be found exceedingly satisfactory for purposes of J. H.

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA. Edited by John W. Leonard: A. N. Marquis & says:

We have before us "Who's who shar and ica" for 1901-1902. This work fills and inique place in a field all its own. We have many encyclopedias of lography—some excellent and some worthless—but there is but one which is devoted exclusively to comtemporary biography, ex-cluding the names of all whose activities are of a past day, though it be but yesterday. For such a work there is constant and wide use. Not only are we thereby enabled to keep in touch with the actual factors that make up the sum of actual strenuous life, but we are given information of many whose ser-vices to mankind have not been sufficient to entitle them to a place in a general to entitle them to a place in a general biography, yet whose work has an in-terest for us during the time of its per-sistence. It is to meet the need that is often felt in his respect that that ex-cellent rublication, "Who's Who in Amerwas first issued and is now reissued in a revised and enlarged edition. is a biograppical dictionary of notable

living men and women in the United

States. Every name which is in the least

likely to demand inquiry or information

is included in the 1,280 pages of biogra-

his or her notability, are given, together with the chief events of the life-history of each. The notice of each person whether widely famous or but little known, is strictly limited to the recital mentioned; there is no laudation, no crit-cism, nothing but bare facts. This gives the work the value of unquestioned ac-"Who's Who in America" is of its time.

ALASKA. Edited by C. Hart Merriam.
Two Volumes: Doubleday, Page &
Co., New York.

before us, must take high rank. The mechanical excellence of these volumes is worthy of special commendation. The binding is well done; the cover is most attractive in its sea-green and gold; the paper used in the set is of high quality; the illustrations are lavishly used and are of great variety. These latter em-bellishments are worthy of special mention; they include colored plates, more than usually well done, photogravure plates of the highest quality, and a host of text figures that add materially to the value of information so attractively presented. The books before us are is sued under the editorship of a number of distinguished writers, among them John Burroughs, John Muir. George Bird Grinnell, William H. Dall, Charles Keeler, Henry Garnett, William h. Brewer and Washburn. The general editor

is C. Hart Merriam, "Alaska" is the direct result of the expedition which Mr. Edward H. Harriman in the early spring of 1899 equip for exploration in Alaska. The co-opera-tion of the Washington Academy of Sciences enabled the projector of the ex-pedition to assemble leaders in several as well as experts in active professorial life. The present results is not a dull compendium of scientific date. It is live story of the trip itself. It takes the reader to Alaska; it shows him the country, its people and its animals as they are, and all this with a fullness of detail, a vividness of description, and an authoritativeness of statement that couses the book to be accepted as the most interesting and valuable volume in its spe-G. W. Y.

THE MODERN MISSION CENTURY. By Arthur T. Pierson: The Baker & Taylor Co., New York.

Taylor Co., New York.

The Rev. Arthur T. Pierson has already a large number of readers. His works, all on religious subjects, number a dozen. The present volume is perhaps the most satisfactory of any of the works of this au hor that have come to works of this author that have come to our attention, thought all of them possess interest and are fruitful in good. The purpose of "The Modern Mission Centuis to sum up the work that has been done during the last hundred years in advancing the cause of Christ in for-eign countries. The style of the author is interesting, and, despite the misleading chapter-heads, the plan of the work is satisfactory. Our author commences with what may be called an argument with what may be called an argument for the foreign mission work. He then passes into a discussion of the character which the successful missionary should possess, and then sketches the variety of missions and the incidents attending their inception and execution. charter devoted to the translation of the Bible and to the extension of its use among foreign nations we find many facts of interest to the general reader. It extraordinary that such good work translation as is shown in the 400 different languaged editions of the Bible has been accomplished. As our author "The marvel is not that there have been so many mistakes or confessed failures, but that they have not been far more numerous and hopeless. If even such a scholar as Dr. Schaff could, in public prayer, thank God that 'we are wished in the blood of the Lamb,' 'raislators may be pardoned for absurd and comical idiomatic mistakes." Mr. Piersee, covers almost every find of a fission work, and, while we do not agree with may on the whole commend the 'oo k to all interested in mission work . . .

THE GAGE OF YOUTH, By Gelett Burress. Small. Maynard & Co. Boston.
We are honestly puzzled what verdict to pronounce on the little volume of verse entitled "A Gage of Youth." by Gelett Burgess. If we take the verse at its best, we must accord it very high praise; if we take it at its worst, we must use terms of reprehension. One thing is certain: Mr. Burgess is one of the most skillful of American versifiers of the present day. In the mechanical portion of his art he has indeed few equals. Look at this stanza from the title-poem:

Youth's in the saddle; hot play for him;

has cast.

Who'll win at last?
God help him, what an array for him!
Tremble and pray for him! Youth cannot die!

This shows a mastery over form that is as rare as it is admirable. Now listen to the little poem entitled

Fair as a star, rare as a star,

The joys of a future lie,
To the eyes of a child, to the sighs of a Heavenly far and high!

Fair as a dream, rare as a dream, The hopes of a 'uture sure
To the wondering child, to the blundering child, Trusting and free and pure!

Fair is the soul, rare is the soul Who has kept, after youth is past, All the art of the child, all the heart of the child.

Holding his faith at last! Holding his faith at fast:

That is poetry, and poetry of a very high order. Nor does it stand alone; there are other poems in the volume nearly as fine as this, If Mr. Burgess will put aside his occasional vulgarisms, as well as his affectation of Philistinism, and will devote himself to his true impulses he should take very high rank pulses, he should take very high rank among American singers. His little volume is well worth reading, even as it is. . . .

#### FICTION.

SHE STANDS ALONE. By Mark Ash-

ton. L. C. Page & Co., Boston.
Mr. Ashton has written an excellent—in some respects an admirable—work of its class. From a literary standpoint the book has some demerits which are fabook has some demerits which are fa-tal to claim of high standing; it is at times slow in narrative, tame in inci-dent, and utterly inadequate in style; but such work as this cannot be viewed only from a literary standpoint. Pur-pose and tendency of thought must be considered in a book which has evident aim; and in these respects Mr. Ashton, with the creating of some parraymers. with the exception of some narrowness deserves great praise. If there is but lit-tle depth in his thought, it is always high and clear, and the religious por-tions of the book are reverently and tions of the book are reverently and quietly handled, with no nint of sensationalism, that bane of too many writers of religious fiction. "She Stands Alone" is very far from being on the plane of "Ben-Hur." with which it naturally comes into comparison; but it is no less earnest and dignified in treatment than Wallace's masterpiece. Especially good are the scenes which are laid in Britain though the chapter entitled "Eu-Britain, though the chapter entitled "Eu phrosyne's Dream' is the finest in

THE CAVALIERS. By George W. Cable, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. "The Cavaller" is not good work; it is exasperatingly bad work. Exasperatingly, because the story gives constant opportunity for excellent results and effects, and there are occasional touches which show how Mr. Cable could have written the book most admirably, if only he had not been possessed of some de-mon which nullified every conception and brought it to naught. And it is oifficult to define the nature of the fault. One feels that the story should be interesting, and yet it lacks interest; that the characters are well drawn, and yet they are vague and shadowy; that the conversation is bright and clever, and yet it leaves the mind perfectly blank of impression. Perhaps the trouble lies in a sense of hurry and uncertainty: Mr. Ca. ble seems himself to have had no real grasp of either his incidents or charac-ters, and so is unable to give impression of them, to create any illusion. The first portion of the story is especially vagueto us, even incomprehensible; we could follow neither conversation nor incident with any grasp of their relation to one

The story is of a portion of the war in is at the head of an organization called Ferry's Scouts. We are over and over again told that these scouts are very remarkable men; but they never do anything, so far as we can see. Ferry himself is intended for a noble character; and so he may be, if we could only un-derstand him. The other chief character is a woman—Charlotte Oliver—a sny in the service of the Confederacy, who is beloved by Ferry and loves him in return. But she is unhappily married, and hence arise complications—though the exact nature of these complications is hid den from us. There is plenty of fight-ing in the book, but it all seems pur-poseless. Charlotte's husband, by the way, is twice supposed to be dead and twice reappears: and his final fate is an outrage upon the reader's feelings and credulity. Mr. Cable must do better work than this if his enemies are not to tri-umnh. M. C. P. A.

cumstance"; and it is hard to say that he was not inspired when he named it. It is purely circumstantial; it is a con-glomeration of events which have no particular excuse for existence in the form of fiction, which begin nowhere and lead nowhither. Dr. Mitchell's chief and pet character is an adventuress—one Mrs. Hunter. She is strictly conventional, except that she does not expert that she does not expert. cept that she does not smoke cigarettes An adventuress who does not smoke ci-gareties is an anomaly in fiction, and thus far Mrs. Hunter is original. Otherwise, she is very bad, indeed; it is even stated of her that "she had no belief in doctors—bad or good;" and one can readily understand how this was a damning circumstance in the eyes of Dr. Mitchell and is put in the book in order to show the total deprayity of the lady in ques-tion. She has, however, a redeeming trait; noventuresses always do have redeeming traits, and generally this consists in love for a brother or sister. In Mrs. Hunter's case it is the former, and the brother is, of course, a scapegrace. The lady ambles through the story, making herself and things in general as disagreeable as she can, which is the way of adventuresses in liction from time immemorial. Of course, there is the exception of the old man whom she fascinates, who in Dr. Mitchell's book is named Fairthorne, and whom she tries to poison at the end. However, Mr. Fairthorne dies just as he is about to drink the poison, which is considerate of him, but seems to serve no possible nurpose in the ing herself and things in general as disseems to serve no possible purpose in the

story.

The remainder of the personages are only to be described as deadly dull, and in their depiction lies, as we think, a in their depiction lies, as we think, a charge of slander against Dr. Mitchell, since he claims that they are representatives of Philadelphia society. There is no special story, the book being entirely fashionable in this respect. We have never heard Dr. Mitchell accused of any especial elegance of style, and he has in "Circumstance" given no ground for such accusation. F. L. M.

MARNA'S MUTINY. By Mrs. Hugh Fraser. Dodd. Mead & Co., New York. "Marna's Mutiny" is a story of Japan, but it is very far from being a Japanese story. The characters are European. story. The characters are European, and, except for mere mise en scene, the reader would rarely realize that he is reading a work of fiction that Pretends to deal with another civilization than that which is familiar to us. This is no detriment to the interest of the novel; rather, we mention it only to prevent pu-tative readers of the book from being rather, we mention to book from being aftrighted by the thought that they are to be given wear/some descriptions of life and manners among the Japanese. "Marna's Mutiny" is rather above the average novel of the day. Marna, the heroine of the story, is a bright and determined little body, whom we soon learn to like for herself and whose occasional vagaries of act and speech we readily forgive. Betty, however, is decidedly better as a portrait; we have known not a few Betties, though very rarely one who, after years of attempt at self-sale to a sufficiently high bidder, retained the capacity for true feeling, as does the Betty of the story. Kilmorack, the chief male character of the novel, is—oh, well, he is a man drawn by a woman, and therefore entirely out of drawing when it comes to the subtleties of delineation; it comes to the subtleties of delineation but he is no worse than the average of such portraits, and will be accepted by most women readers, at least, as being true to nature. The rest of the charactrue to nature. The rest of the characters are slight and make little impression; though we fancy that Mrs. Mowbray was rather a favorite creation with the author. We like the book as a whole, contrasting it with others of greater pretensions which we have read this autumn, and we recommend it to such of our pragings as read entirely for any second our readers as read entirely for amuse-

THE STRIKING HOURS. By Eden Phillpotts: Frederick A. Stokes Com-pany, New York.

"The Striking Hours" is a volume of short stories, or rather sketches, most of them told autobiographically by one of the actors in the incident described. and all but one written in the dialect peculiar to the part of Devon which is the scene of the story. The book takes its title from a quotation from Dr. Martin-eau, "God has so arranged the, chronometry of our spirits that there shall be thousands of silent moments between the striking hours," and the applicability of the title is at once discernible. There are fourteen tales in the collection, vary-ing greatly in mer't and interest, but all ossessing a certain charm which is difficult of definition. Perhaps the best of the collection is that called "The Red Rose;" but "Another Little Heath-Hound" and "The Devil's Tight-Rope" are almost as good in their varying ways.

Mr. Phillpotts' stories are all of a quiet type, even though some of them deal with battle, murder, and sudden death. The pathos of the book is, as a whole, better than the humor thereof; but the latter quality is by no means lacking, and is not of the bludgeon sort that wearies

merits, but by intrinsic circumstance.
That this should bring success is not a reced sign of public saulty; but so it is we see in Mr. Philipotts no successor to Mr. Blackmore, we recognize him as a pleasant and skillful writer, and we can cordially commend his book to the general reader. T. T. D.

M. STRANGEST CASE. L. C. Page

& Co., Boston.

This is an exciting book. From the first page to the last the reader is carried torward through a host of exciting incidents to a comax which, though conventional, is none the less sat.sfactory. The story opens in Singapore. There three Englishmen meet and plan the recovery of an immense treasure nide n in the ruins of a Burmese Temple. In this abandoned temple the advanturers find a treasure of enormous value. have not time to take it all, but from the treasure chamber with jewels valued at almost a million dollars. One adventurer betrays the coust reposed in him by the others, secures the jewels and flees. His sleeping countades are attacked by the Chinese, and r tentures in which Sepling countades are this tongue torn out by he roots, the Eitwater is blinded, the vertened ad

venturers are turned loose in the forest. ventures are turned loose in the firest.
In risyle is pursued one cry
cutpes of the British army. Compess those upon his track nd 5000
reaches London. All this forms the in-

troduction to the story proper. This commences with the arrival of Kitwater

and Codd at the office of George Fairfax

the detective. The aim of Kitwater and

Codd is to find Hayle, recover the jewels of which they were robbed, and to tear out the tongue and blind the eyes of the thief. They engage Pairfax to find him. Then commences the hunt to which the pages of the book are devoted. Hayle finds the detective upon his track, bold finds the detective upon his track, bold and resourceful as he is he cannot shake the human sleuth-hound from his sport. Turn and double as he may, Fairfax is always hot upon the scent. The trail leads in and out of the purlieus of London and then across the channel to Paris. Though haffled for a moment the de-Though baffled for a moment, the detective soon discovers the hiding place of the fugitive. Now the pursued turns upon the pursuer. For a minute it seems that victory is in the hands of Hayle. The French police come to the rescue of their English comrade, and once again the bold criminal is forced to fly. Pursuit is hot. The French and the English police are hardly a day behind him, and now Kitwater and Codd join the search-party. It would seem as if these two mutlated men could do littie, but the dumb leads the blind and the blind speaks for the dumb. By their persistent effort, spurred on by their thirst for vengeance they succeed in reaching Hayle before the police, and as the officers of the law arrive, Kitwater plunges into the sea with in his grasp. Death to both and the suicide of Codd ends the story. For those who like this sort of a book further recommendation of it is unn sary.

KIDS OF MANY COLORS. By Grace Duffie Baylor and Ike Morgan: Jamie-

Dume Baylor and Ike Morgan: Jamisson-Higgins Company, Chicago.

In the world of books there are few products so common as books written "for children," and no product so uncommon as books sultable for children. There are those, of course, who will take exception to this statement, those who boast of their optimistic view of writers of to-day; but if they will steal into some child's nursery they will find that the mother of the hale one buys it the sto-ries of writers now long dead; or, where the child itself has its choice between the books of modern and earlier writers, they will find the books of the later writers new and bright and clean enough to have been the possession of some angel, while the Robinson Crusoes and Mother Hubbards and other stories of long ago are thumb-marked and torn and some of them actually devoured, as if the little ones found them sweet enough to eat. Why is this state of affairs? The earliest writers possesed the minds men and could comprehend, at least in part the needs of the child mind: while many of the later writers of juvenile fiction seem as if they themselves had not yet passed the period of Infancy. We have before us a book for children that is in marked contrast to the Rajvity of juveniles of to-day; it is interesting, it is amusing, it is a child's book suitable for a child. The "Kids of Many Colors," by Grace Duffle Baylor and Ike Morgan, will come as close to being a substitute for a nurse as it is possible for a manufactured article to be. The pictures, bright in colors, pleasing in design, amusing in subject, will employ the attention of the child who is too young to read or understand the text. The little bits of stories in verse will in-terest the slightly older child if read to him while he has the rictures before while the older child, and that book not only readable, but entertaining

as well. The variety of the storiesand they tell tales about little children in every country of the wide earth-afforded the artist unlimited opportunity to vary the drawings, and he has taken advantage of the opportunities. We are pleased to review this book, for it makes us feel that there are at least a few who believe that children of to-day in their needs and desires are much as we were in the days of our childhood.

WARWICK OF THE KNOBS. By John

Uri Lloyd. Dodd, Mead & Co., New

Exactly why pathos should be more pathetic, humor more humorous, because couched in language of which the chief characteristic is a disinclination to spell the use of the cultivated or even educated, is a problem which has busied our thoughts more than once. We have not arrived at any solution thereof; yet that these things are true is evident by the delight which many people-and people not lacking in either intelligence or cultivation-find in the reading of dialect stories. Indeed, there are readers not a few who care for nothing but dialect: if you were to offer them a verb - por-trait of a man of the proletar at, howtrait of a man of the proletariat, how-ever beautifully and sympathetically drawn, who did not misspell and mis-pronounce the commonest words of the English language, they could see in him activing but an investigation in the nothing but an impostor in the realm of

pathos or humor. We do not under-stand; but we are compelled to admit. We see no merit in such works as "Warwick of the knobs," which reports-and probably with accuracy-a phase of life which brings no true lesson. Warwick, the chief character, by his stern theology and practice contributes to the ruin of his daughter. Herein lies the moral which the author evidently intended to draw; but it can apply only to those under similar environment as his characters; and will these read the book? For all others, the story can serve only to gratify a morbid taste. We can find nohting to praise in conception or execution.

D. J. L.

#### LITERARY CHAT.

My Soul Was Thirsty.

My soul was thirsty till she came, My heart was hungry till her eyes Lighted love's fuel into flame And taught me Paradise.

I hunger and I thirst no more; Lo! 'tis a fount where honey drips; I drink a thousand kisses from The chalice of her curved lins -Robert Loveman, in "A Book of Verses" -Robert Loveman, in Reprinted by permission.

Admirers of Mr. Howells will be gratified to learn that during the current month they may expect from him a new book called "Heroines of Fiction." The book is to be uniform with "Literary Friends and Acquaintances" and the papers of which it is composed have alread, appeared in Harper's Bazar. In the work Mr. Howells discourses on the heroines of many of the famous novelists of old as well as those of the present day. Mr. Howells' method is to treat the heroine of each novel as a central point, to consider the story in relation to her, rather than her in relation to the story, and to find the reasons for her existence and individuality through the istence and individuality through the course and trend of the portions of the novel, with which she is immediately concerned. This method, as will be readily seen, opens up great opportunities for critical study and removes the work from the category, into which it might otherwise have fallen, of mere detached upnoversals of but little interest. tached monographs of but little interest tached monographs of but uttle interest, or value. One thing may be looked upon as absolutely certain: however the judgment of Mr. Howells may be impugned, his readers will thoroughly enjoy his book, for in nothing is the great species or writing, ris has the light touch which is little less than imperaspecies or writing. tive, and his verdicts are given in such a delightful manner that, however we may dissent from their results, we are bound to be charmed with his manner of stating them. We do not greatly risk reputation as a prophet by foretelling that every reader of "Literary Friends and Acquaintances" will eagerly welcome and read its companion volume and will find "Heroines of Fiction" delightfind "Heroines of ful as its predecessor.

"Who is de Colima?" This question has almost immediately followed the publication of a novel from a new hand. Colima is a social parasite who figures conspicuously in James O. G. Duffy's of teaching Italian to the Four Hundred, this Colima is a walking chronicler of scandal, admitted into every house on Fifth Avenue and its environs and into exclusive clubs. He collects all the gossip he can and carries it impartially to his

## OTHER LITERARY FEATURES.

IN OUR COUNTRY, By Marion Harland Author of "Some Colonial Homesteads,

Where Ghoses Wars, etc. New York: 3. P. Putham's Sens. Cloth, 12mo, 11lustrated, 400 pases. Price, not given. Marion marianu neeus no introduction to kicamona readers, who have benefu her literary success with so much friendry merest. in this ther latest) work she has given us a number of short stories of Old Virgima life. It is well that we gnound preserve the pictures of that past age, and who more fitted for the task than Marion Harland? To her it is "a work of love, a glad exercise of the mem-In her introduction, she says of the period of winch she writes: "It is of the forever past as truly as the feudal age belongs to ancient history. The Old Virginla of my childhood is so unlike the virginia of the twentieth century that I could not hope to reproduce it for my readers were my own recollections of it less vivid. The stories of her social and but a few of the many incorporated into a life that spans the great gulf fixed between the then and now. My tales have naught to do with the mighty convulsion

that opened that gulf. My business is with the days that are no more. The stories are ten in number, and run the gamut of the human heart. Romance and tragedy, humor and bathos, things tangible and things intengible (otherwise, ghosts) all have their place. Worthy of special note are the opening story "Dod-der," "At the Spa" and "Martley." The stories are told in the author's character-

The illustrations are from photographs of the actual scenes, and are a charming addition to a delightful volume,

TO LOVERS OF DOGS. B. Stephen Townsend, F. R. C. S. With an intro-duction by Frances Hodgson Burnett. New York: Frederick A. Soaks Company. Cloth, special cover design, 12 mo., illustrated, 175 pages. Price, \$1.25. For sale by The Bell Book and Stationery Co., Richmond.

This unique little volume is charming in its originality. We have had many stories about dogs—dogs have even told their own stories-but a story written by a dog about another dog is something new in the world of books. The point of view is of interest, since we "humans" have an opportunity to see ourselves and actions, our faults and our foibles, as they appear to an intelligent dog. Mr. Townsend has given us an unusually clever bit of writing, full of light touches of satire, of delicate humor and of pa-thos. To see ourselves with the eyes of a dog shows us "humans" up in a light not always agreeable.
"Hett," our writer, is a skye terrier, and

has no sporting blood, for she cannot understand what "humans" call "sport." and pours her scorn upon the so-called "sport" of "shattering to pieces bewildered pigeons as they escape from the cramped confinement of airless traps to fly out into the open vault of the heav-ens," or of "shooting down by thousands the wild birds of the sea, as they float twixt the blue of the sky and ocean leaving them lifeless, to rot on the surface of the waves, or after days of untold suffering to be cast up as so much sensitive refuse on the shore

It is a most sympathetic little story, showing deep feeling and serious thought Mrs. Burnett has been most happy in her introduction and description of the personality of "Hett" and her diagnosis of her mental attitude. The numerous illustrations, drawn by J. A. Shepherd, A THOROUGHBRED MONGREL. THE illustrations, drawn by J. A. Shepherd. Two generations of girls have enjoyed are appropriate and well chosen. All Is Miss Carey's pure, wholesome stories.

all the little volume is a gem.

A MUNICIPAL PROGRAMME, REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE NATION-AL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADOPTED BY THE LEAGUE, NOVEMBER I., 189, TOGETHER WITH EAPLANA-TORY AND OTHER PAPERS. New York. Published for the Munic.pal League by the Macmillan Company.

The Times by Mr. Chnton Rogers Woodrun, of Philadelphia, secretary of the National Municipal League, who recently adaressed the Consututional Convention committee on Cities and Towns, of which Judge Brooke is chairman. In it is contained the report of the Committee of the National Municipal League on the subject of nuncipal government, together with the preposed constitutional amendment and municipal corporations act, which is the result of careful study on the part of which represents two years of thorough investigation and consideration of whole question. Mr. Woodruff thinks that the principles laid down in the "Municipal Programme" arc such as to commend themselves to those interested in drafting a new Constitution for Virginia and commends the work to the attention of the

members. Municipal government is one of the difficult problems of the age and the larger our southern cities grow the more difficult these problems become. A municiis largely a business corporation and its business affairs should be conducted on business principles. We have not had time to give this work under review a coreful reading but it appears to be a valuable contribution to municipal literature and the members of the Constitutional Convention will do well to read it.

HERB OF GRACE. By Rosa Nanchette Carey, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, Cloth, 12mo., 440 pages. Price, \$1.25.

Everything from Miss Carey's pen has been pure in morals; and, while not "goody-goody." the tendency of her writings has been elevating. She has written stories of everyday life, showing the beauty of unselfishness and other homely virtues. She has written of that most interesting of all subjects to dawning womanhood—love—and has treated it simply and reverently as "the gift which God has given." While teaching no religious dogma, she has inculcated simple faith and the belief that since God's in her Heaven, all's right with the world." This may not seem up-to-date teaching for the "Twentieth Century" girl, but these homely virtues make a firm foun-

interpreted, means patience) the author shows how a lover's patient endurance has its reward at last.

PRACTICAL OR IDEAL? By James M. Taylor, D. D., LL. D. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co. 12mo, 28 pages, white leatherette. (What is Worth While Series.) Price. 25 cents The president of Vassar olege here draws a strong contrast between the practical and the ideal, snowing in what sense they are inter-related and the extent of their separate bearing upon The "practical," indeed, destroys itself and its own special ends, he says unless it realizes more than can be touch ed or seen or measured; in other words there is really no practical that is not also ideal—nothing ministers to life in any proper sense unless it touches something deeper than what we generally mean by the actual and useful. It is along the lines of this reasoning that the author draws some striking truths.

THE GREATNESS OF PATIENCE. By Arthur T. Hadley, President of Yale University, New York; Thomas Y. Crowell & Co. 12mo, white leather-ette, 28 pages. Price, 35 cents. is dainty volume is a late issue of "What is Worth While" series, and

denvered by President Hadley before a graduating class, when he first spoke the "Greatness of Patience." The tre ment of the subject is clear-cut and logi-

the definition of patience is so full of encouragement to struggling humanity that we reproduce it.

"Patience, in its highest sense, is spiritual endurance. It means quiet de-cermination in the face of discouragement. It is characteristic of this kind of patience that it is hardest for the best and strongest men, because it seems to involve a limitation of that part of their nature which makes them best said strongest. But the achievament worch in quality than that which seems to come of itself."

THE PRICE OF A WIFE. By John Strange Winter, author of "The Career of a Beauty," "The Other Man's Wife," etc., etc. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. Cloth, 12mo., 269 pages. Price, \$1,25.
This well-known writer gives us

"The Price of a Wife" a simple little love-story. While lacking the power and dramatic force of some of the author's more pretentious novels, notably "A Name To Conjure With," yet this unpretentious story is told in delightful fashion, and will give pleasure to Mrs. Stannard's many admirers. It is marked by a wholesome freshness of tone, in happy contrast to the pessimis tic style so much in vogue at present.

The motif of the story is so simple that it can scarcely be dignified by the term "plot." Lawrence Murgatroyd, in-jured on the hunting-field, falls in love

with his pretty trained nurse, and per

suades her to marry him secretly.

and the father finds himself on his death bed, and his son, as he supposes, unmarried. Determined to carry out his purpose, he leaves a will as follows: "To my son, Lawrence, I leave everything of which I die possssd, on one conditionthat within two years of my death he is married to a lady with not less than twenty pounds to her fortune; \* \* \* at the end of two years, if he is not mar-ried in accordance with my wish, let everything be divided between the county hospital at Binghley and the "Asylum for Idiots." How the wily lawyer who drew up the will, but who falls a victim to the charms of the penniless wife, finds a loophole by

discovers some fault in each fair maid.

which the injustice is prevented, Lawrence Murgatroyd and his faithful wife come into possession of their right-ful home is best told in the author's own words.

STEVENSON'S ATTITUDE TO LIFE. By Prof. John F. Genung, New York: Thomas Y. Crowell and Company.

Cloth, gilt top, 12 mo.; 60 cents.
"Every heart that has beat strong and cheerfully has left a hopeful impulse behind it in the world and bettered the traditions of mankind." Thus said Rob-ert Louis Stevenson, among other brave and uplifting things which he was so constantly giving to the world. He believed in happiness, not so much for personal pleasure, as to create a circle of kindly influence round about him. He builded wiser than he knew; for that bit of geniality is becoming infused throughout the world of letters, just as did the bon-homie of Charles Lamb. Prof. Genung. the well-known writer and lecturer of Amherst College, has an inspiring topic in Stevenson, and he handles it in an inspiring manner. He gives many a wealthy old father, believing in the old saying "Riches marry riches," selects, in glimpse at his subject both by description

The letterpress of the book itself will turn, several rich young women, any one of whom would be, to his mind, a suitable wife for his son. Young Lawrence appeal to those who like examples of un-

THE MODERNS. A TALE OF NEW YORK. By George Trimble Davidson, New York: Frederick A. Stokes Com-pany. Cloth, special cover design, 12 mo., 364 pages. Price, \$1.50. For sala by The Bell Book and Stationery Company, Richmond.

This is a story of New York life of to-

day. In the prologue the author gives a most realistic description of the terribid ago, when so many lives were lost. The book proper opens with a dinner

party in Fifth Avenue, and the author describes for the readers' benefit the magnificent interfor, gorgeous dresses and liverica lackeys, which are the essential environment of a New York society The story is the old theme of a young.

beautiful and wealthy American girl be-ing sought in marriage by a titled for-eigner. The Duke of Montfort uses every means, foul as well as fair, to secure the young beauty and her fortune, but his rival, a young American artist, blocks his game and in the end the duke is revealed in his true colors-an impos-tor in every sense of the word, since he is only the valet of the former duke.

The plot is well conceived and well executed, and the climax comes in the last chapter, when the vengeance plotted against his rival rebounds upon the masnuerading Duke's own head. The book abounds in dramatic situations, which are well sustained. The characters are bold-ly drawn and are significant of the varied types which go to make up New York's Four Hundred.

We should treat the term "the United States" as we treat any other noun which, though plural in form, is sometimes plural, sometimes singular in meaning. In speaking of the United States, when we mean the several States we use a plural verb; when we mean the nation, or the governmental entity, which is or the governmental entity, which is designated by the term "the United States," we use a singular verb."—Ludles Home Journal.